

SENATE BILL 1850

By Campfield

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55,  
Chapter 16 and Title 55, Chapter 7, Part 2, relative  
to the towing of vehicles.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-7-201(h), is amended by deleting the subsection in its entirety and substituting instead the following:

(h) It is not a violation of the length limits set forth in this section when any otherwise properly titled and registered vehicle, which is in compliance with applicable length requirements, is disabled on the highways and requires a tow or other assistance in proceeding to an exit or a repair or terminal facility within one hundred (100) miles of the point where the vehicle became disabled, and the combined lengths of the disabled vehicle and the tow vehicle exceed the limits in this section. This exemption shall only apply to vehicles disabled while operating on the highway.

SECTION 2. Section 1 of this act shall become operative only if the federal motor carrier safety administration advises the department of safety in writing that the provisions of the section shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed in the federal laws and regulations.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-16-105(g)(2), is amended by deleting the first sentence in its entirety, which presently reads as follows:

A garagekeeper or towing firm that does not verify ownership of a motor vehicle within three (3) business days after taking possession of such motor vehicle pursuant to this section or that does not notify by mail the owner of such motor vehicle within six (6)

days after taking possession shall not be entitled to receive more than six (6) days of storage-related expenses.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-16-105(g)(1), is amended by adding the following sentence at the end of the subdivision:

If a garagekeeper or towing firm fails to submit to the department of revenue a request for verification of ownership on the prescribed form within three (3) business days after taking possession, or fails to provide the notice to the owner and lienholders within three (3) business days after receiving verification of ownership, then the garagekeeper or towing firm shall not be entitled to receive more than six (6) days of storage-related expenses.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.